PSYC202 LAB 5

Writing papers

- Be concise!
  - Minimize the amount of adjectives you use.
  - Change detection is incredibly interesting and extremely important for humans to interact with the environment.
  - Change detection is important for humans to interact with the environment. For example…
- Assume the audience has no idea what you are talking about
  - E.g. explain 'flicker' the first time you mention it.

Research paper

- Title
- Abstract
- Introduction (why?)
- Methods (how?)
- Results (what?)
- Discussion (so what?)
- References
- Appendix (not always necessary)

Introduction

- Hook – try to get people interested to read the rest
- Literature search
  - Use google scholar
    - Do not pay for papers! You get them free through the school library
- Set up the reason why your research is important
  1. Here is what other labs have done on the topic
  2. Here is what they missed/here is a hole in the literature
  3. This is why my experiments need to be run
  4. Brief summary of your experiment
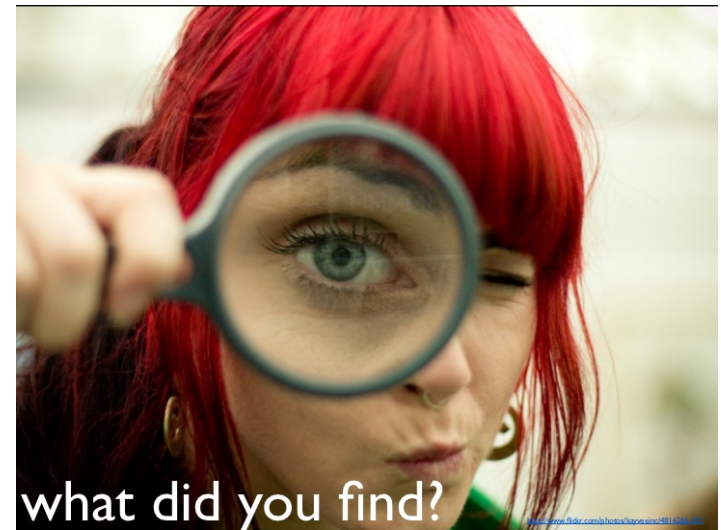
WAIT BUT WHY

Methods – 3 sections

HOW?

- Participants
  - How many, Age, Gender
  - Other important information
    - If studying language, are they all native English speakers?
- Materials
  - What was the experiment run on? (e.g. computer)
  - What buttons did they press
  - How large were the stimuli, what were the survey questions?
  - Everything you would need to know to run the experiment yourself
- Procedure
  - Step by step process of how the experiment was run

Results

- Write up what you found
  - Never say 'these results prove my hypothesis'
  - Science can never prove anything, only support or reject hypotheses
- STATSTICS
  - Do your statistics in SPSS (or others if you want)
  - Write up your stats in APA format.

what did you find?

Lab 5

- First, critique the 'SampleLab_problems' document shared on the class website
  - Either track changes in word or write bullet points at the end describing what is wrong with the paper.
- Second, write an introduction section on any psychological topic. The intro should be at least one page written in APA style. Also include a reference section for the chosen references.

Topic Introduced	The general topic is introduced			20
Created Interest	The opening paragraph made me want to read the paper!			10
Literature Review				
Reference 1	Properly cited. All relavent components described. Included: What was done; important subject variables; how IV & DV constructs were operationally defined; results / conclusion.			10
Reference 2	See Reference 1			10
Reference 3	See Reference 1			10
Integration & Flow	The research presented in the literature review is integrated into a cohesive description of the phenomena the current study is about. The organization and transitions move the reader from the general topic down to the narrow focus of the current study.			40